Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: MEETING WITH SEC-GENS REP

IN THE MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, UN UNDERSECRETARY STAVROPOULOS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. BECAUSE OF CONSENSUS PROCEDURES, IT WILL NOT BE PRACTICABLE TO GET COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO CARRY ON SPECIFIC INTERIM WORK BUT IN FACT THE SECRETARIAT WILL DO SO IN CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED DELEGATIONS. THE SECRETARIAT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AS TO THE NATURE AND TYPE OF WORKING DOCUMENTS THAT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AND ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING A LAWYER FROM A DEVELOPING AS WELL AS A LAWYER FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY TO BE RETAINED AS CONSULTANTS TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT. FOR THE MOMENT, THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF ANY DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT WILL NOT BE DEFINED BUT RATHER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO BE AVAILABLE WHEN IT CAN

BE OF USE.

- 2. STAVROPOULOS DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING PARTICULARLY USEFUL CAN BE PREPARED BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUT WOULD HOPE TO HAVE A USEFUL WORKING DOCUMENT RELATING PARTICULARLY TO SUBCOMMITTEE II MATTERS BY JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.
- 3. STAVROPOULOS URGED THE U.S. NOT INSIST ON CONSENSUS AS A FORMAL RULE OF PROCEDURE AS THIS WOULD ENABLE TROUBLEMAKERS TO STALEMATE THE CONFERENCE. IN HIS VIEW, THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL NOT FORCE A VOTE ON ANY ISSUE WHERE THE U.S. MAKES IT CLEAR THAT AN ADVERSE VOTE WOULD PROBABLY PREVENT U.S. ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTION.
- 4. WITH RESPECT TO EARLY CONSIDERATION BY THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA ITEM, STAVROPOULOS WOULD RECOMMEND THAT U.S. AND OTHER INTERESTED DELEGATIONS TAKE THE POSITION IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THIS ITEM BE CONSIDERED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GENERAL DEBATE IS GOING ON IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY. SINCE IN MOST CASES THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL NOT BE ACTING ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ITEM, HE SEES NO REASON WHY FIRST COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION O THIS ITEM MUST AWAIT TERMINATION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE. HOWEVER, DEPARTURE FROM USUAL PROCEDURE OF NOT HOLDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL DEBATE IN THE PLENARY WILL REQUIRE A SPECIFIC EFFORT IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.
- 5. ON THE PARTICIPATION QUESTION, STAVROPOULOS INDICATED THAT INITIATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL THE G.A. HAS ACTED ON THE FIRST COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. IF THE G.A. WERE SIMPLY TO ADOPT AN ALL-STATES' FORMULA, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD REQUEST THE FIRST COMMITTEE TO LIST THE STATES TO BE INVITED. HOWEVER, HE SAID, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE ONLY QUESTION CONFIDENTIAL

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INVOLVES THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. IF THE VIENNA INVITATION FORMULA WERE USED, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY PROVIDED THE GA INDICATED THE STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE UN OR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO BE INVITED.

6. STAVROPOULOS INDICATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO CONFERENCE SPACE AVAILABLE DURING THE GA FOR MORE THAN

A ONE OR TWO DAY MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE UNTIL DECEMBER 10. FOLLOWING DECEMBER 10, THERE WILL BE AMPLE SPACE AND FACILITIES. HE WOULD HOPE THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS CAN BE DECIDED IN THE CORRIDORS SO THAT A VERY SHORT MEETING WOULD SUFFICE. BUT IN ANY EVENT, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE CHAIRMAN AND RULES OF PROCEDURE BE ADOPTED AT A ONE-DAY MEETING SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER WITH THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION COMMENCING DECEMBER 10.

7. IF FOR ANY REASON THE CONFERENCE IS NOT HELD IN CHILE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA OR NEW YORK BUT HE THOUGHT IN THAT EVENT THE AUSTRIANS MIGHT VOLUNTEER ON THE UNDERSTANDING THE CONFERENCE WOULD CONTINUE FOR TWO YEARS IN VIENNA AS IN THE CASE OF THE LAW OF TREATIES CONFERENCE. (NOTE: AUSTRIANS HAVE TOLD US HOWEVER THAT THEY "SOLIDLY BOOKED UP" FOR CONFERENCE SPACE THROUGHOUT 1974.)

8. STAVROPOULOS IS OF THE VIEW THAT IT WILL PROBABLY BE POSSIBLE TO ADD A FOURTH COMMITTEE TO THE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AS LONG AS IT IS DESIGNATED AS A SPECIAL COMMITTEE RATHER THAN A MAIN COMMITTEE.

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